



## AMERICORPS *Getting things done*

**T**he mission of the AmeriCorps State Programs is to enable communities through existing nonprofit agencies, local or state government and school corporations to address community needs in the areas of education, human needs, public safety and the environment. There are a total of 14 programs in Indiana's portfolio for the 2001-02 program year. In 2000-01, the ICCSV supported more than 600 FTE AmeriCorps members across the state.

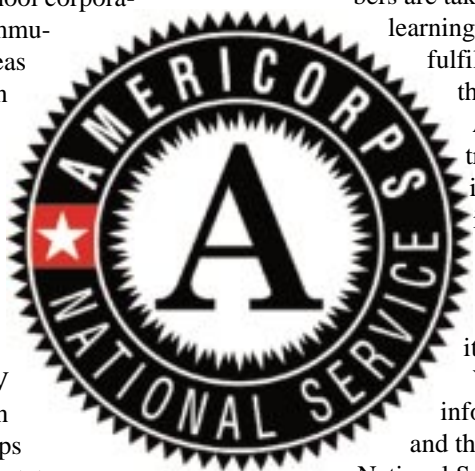
AmeriCorps is much more than a

service program. It is a movement that unites Americans in improving neighborhoods. In communities large and small throughout America, AmeriCorps members are taking responsibility, learning valuable skills, and fulfilling their pledge to get things done.

AmeriCorps is part of a tradition of service, and it represents America at its best. Making a lasting difference while promoting the values of community, responsibility, and opportunity.

You can find more information on AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service on their web sites,

[www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org) or [www.cns.gov](http://www.cns.gov)



## TO READERS

*A message from Governor*

*Frank O'Bannon*

Throughout Indiana, there are countless people who are working, both individually and through organizations, to make Indiana a



better place to live. I strongly believe that being actively involved in activities like cleaning up parks, helping the less fortunate and preserving our heritage has a wonderful side effect of promoting responsible citizenship and a stronger sense of community. By reaching out to meet specific needs, we build our communities and ourselves up and strengthen our common bonds.

I have asked the Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism to reach out to people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to ensure they know of the many opportunities available for them to participate in, projects that build up Indiana. The Commission is committed to refining and expanding the state's community service and volunteerism efforts, and they are doing a great job. But we need to do more.

While we have worked together for many years to build a better Indiana, we must not be satisfied until each and every citizen understands the value of being connected and participating in the effort to make our state the absolute best it can be. I'm asking each of you to make the same commitment that the commission and I have made to our state and to our fellow citizens.

Together, we can make a long lasting and positive difference.

[www.in.gov/iccsv](http://www.in.gov/iccsv)

## VISTA *What is AmeriCorps \*VISTA?*

AmeriCorps\*VISTA is a national service program for individuals age 18 and older. The volunteers work in low income areas to increase housing opportunities, develop literacy programs, establish credit unions, and improve health care in underserved communities.

Since 1965, more than 100,000 VISTAs have joined forces with 12,000 public agencies and nonprofit groups. In Indiana, the AmeriCorps\*VISTA programs provide opportunities to work with communities to help solve their most pressing problems.

By serving in AmeriCorps\*VISTA, members utilize the skills they have and develop new ones that open future opportunities. They transform communities and their own lives.

Indiana VISTA members get things done in the areas of education, public safety, human needs, and the environment. For more information about Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP programs call toll-free Senior Corps information line: 1-317-226-6724, or visit them at [www.seniorcorps.org](http://www.seniorcorps.org)

# AMERICORPS PROMISE FELLOWS

## Serving Indiana

**T**he ten Indiana AmeriCorps Promise Fellows can be found serving in communities across the state. Building on AmeriCorps' success, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are a leadership cadre of committed, talented individuals who dedicate a year of their lives to building a better future for children and youth. As part of this special partnership between



AmeriCorps and America's Promise – the Alliance for Youth, AmeriCorps Promise

Fellows are spearheading community efforts to provide young people with the Five Promises identified at the President's Summit for America's Future:

- Ongoing relationships with caring adults – parents, mentors, tutors or coaches;
- Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours;
- A healthy start and future;
- Marketable skills through effective education; and
- Opportunities to give back through community service.

For more information about the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, contact the ICCSV at (317) 233-0900 or via e-mail at [aroos@dwd.state.in.us](mailto:aroos@dwd.state.in.us).

## WHAT IS THE ICCSV?

The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism (ICCSV) was created by an executive order in January 1994, in response to the National and Community Service Act of 1993.

Twenty-six Commissioners, who are leaders in their respective and diverse fields, guide the Commission. This nonpartisan group of educators, labor and business leaders, state and local government officials, public safety and human service providers and volunteers receive their appointments from the Governor.

The primary role of the Commissioners is to advocate, review, refine, and adjust the state's position in community service and volunteer expansion.

The chief responsibility of the ICCSV is to cultivate a statewide network, which connects all streams of service and encourages the sustainable growth of local service organizations. As a consultant for ideas and resources, as well as a catalyst for quality program development, the ICCSV is a clearinghouse for the service and volunteer sectors of Indiana.

## ICCSV Mission Statement

The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism challenges the people of Indiana to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and develop in communities the capacity to solve problems and improve the quality of life for all individuals and families.

## 2016 The Indiana Challenge

As Hoosiers move closer to celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, the Indiana 2016 Task Force will initiate and support opportunities that help strengthen our state and encourage citizen participation. Some of their actions will be statewide in their scope.

Others efforts will focus on supporting local initiatives in communities all across the state. The task force will place a special emphasis on those initiatives in the areas of education, health and human services, arts and culture, technology and community development.

### What Can You Do?

Find out if there are local or statewide programs started as part of the Hoosier Millennium initiative in your community.

Create new opportunities for people in your community or organization to set goals together and get involved in making those goals reality.

Sign up your community or organization to be an Indiana 2016 Community. Get involved in the statewide network of communities sharing ideas and opportunities.

Look for programs or initiatives in your community that are already working to strengthen your community for the future, and let us know about them.

For more information please contact the 2016 office at 1-317-283-8171, or check out our website,

<http://www.indiana2016.org>



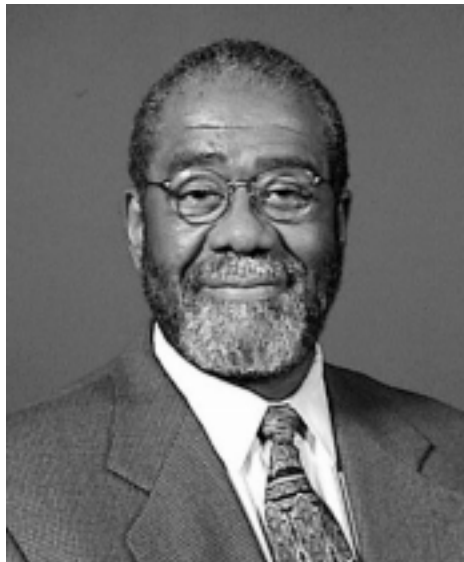
# A WORD *From Joseph Smith, Executive Director of the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism*

**G**reetings, as we all come together to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers.

The spirit of volunteerism is very much alive in every aspect of our State. Indiana is pleased to take part in this great celebration knowing that so much success in our communities relies upon the efforts of those selfless Hoosiers who offer so much.

The Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism is working to see to it that all of our citizens are afforded the opportunity to serve. This year we have made an extraordinary attempt to see that our youth are not only among those who serve, but also whose voice is heard.

Our youth commission has shown great examples in both leadership and service. We have proudly woven an endless seam with our promise fellows, youth and volunteer centers to assure the widest possible reach through out the state. We are confident that our investments today



Joseph Smith, executive director of ICCSV

will reap many benefits in the future. I want to salute all who offer themselves to make this a wonderful state in which to live and serve.

## IYCSL *Indiana Youth Commission on Service and Leadership*

**T**he Indiana Youth Commission on Service and Leadership (IYCSL) was established in 1995 by Governor Evan Bayh. It was reformed under Governor O'Bannon in 1998 in partnership with youth who provided the vision to develop a new framework.

The current framework consists of 50 Youth Commissioners, one representative from each state senate district. Each Youth Commissioner works in partnership with 3-6 local Youth Ambassadors who work as a team to address problems on the local level and engage other youth in service.

### IYCSL Annual Projects


*Youth Legislative Breakfast:* The Indiana Youth Commission partners with members of the General Assembly and youth across the state to discuss and advocate legislation that youth have introduced.

*Martin Luther King Jr. Day:* Youth Commissioners and youth throughout the state come together to celebrate diversity by working together on service projects throughout Indianapolis.

*Join Hands Day:* Youth Commissioners will work alongside adults from various nonprofit organizations. They help disadvantaged home-owners improve their properties, and help in the clean-up of several neighborhoods.

*Youth Summits:* National and state summits are a chance for youth to network and discuss service projects, advocacy for legislation and to celebrate their contributions to society.

If you would like to learn more about the Indiana Youth Commission on Service and Leadership, please contact Alysha Jones (317) 233-4273 or check out our website at [www.in.gov/iccsv](http://www.in.gov/iccsv).



**INDIANA**  
*Volunteers*  
Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism

INDIANA *Volunteers* is a newsletter that discusses issues that are relevant to the spirit of volunteering and community service.

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Chair of the IYCSL, Kara Chernet, and an adult volunteer celebrate "Join Hands Day" on June 16 – bringing youth and adults together to serve communities.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

- September 10 – 15 ..... Habitat for Humanity International 25th Anniversary Celebration [www.hfhi.org](http://www.hfhi.org)
- October 26 ..... Opening Ceremonies for Indiana AmeriCorps [www.in.gov/iccsv](http://www.in.gov/iccsv)
- October 26 ..... Community Service Awards Luncheon [www.in.gov/iccsv](http://www.in.gov/iccsv)
- October 27 ..... Make a Difference Day [www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)
- October 28 – November 9 ..... First Lady Leads Delegation to South Africa [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org)
- October 30 – November 1 ..... Commissioners Development Leadership Institute, Chicago, Illinois [www.asc-online.org](http://www.asc-online.org)
- November 17 ..... National Family Volunteer Day [www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)
- December 2001 ..... Tree Trimming in State Capitol

**Deadline for  
Community  
Service Awards  
Nominations  
September 30,  
2001**

**Visit our website for  
more information and  
Nomination Forms  
[www.in.gov/iccsv](http://www.in.gov/iccsv)**

**We'd like to hear from you. Let us know what you think about our newsletter**

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